

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02152 231434Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 SIL-01 LAB-04
PA-01 PRS-01 /104 W
-----231700Z 096633 /45

R 231409Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7798
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2152

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: IZ, KU, PFOR
SUBJECT: IRAQI MISSION TO GULF AND ARABIAN PENINSULA

REF: KUWAIT 1930

1. THE LARGE IRAQI DELEGATION ABOUT TO TOUR THE GULF AND ARABIAN PENINSULA, WHICH HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF MUCH PRESS INTEREST HERE, ARRIVED MORNING OF APRIL 23. PRESS ESTIMATES OF ITS SIZE RANGE FROM 50 TO 78 PEOPLE. REPORTEDLY THESE INCLUDE, IN ADDITION TO DELEGATION HEAD INTMIN IZZAT IBRAHIM AL-DURI, THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND COMMERCE AND SEVERAL UNDERSECS FROM OTHER MINISTRIES. KUWAITI SOURCES REPORTEDLY HAVE ALLUDED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS FOR BILATERAL TALKS DURING THE TWO DAY VISIT: FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THE GULF, IN THE CONTEXT OF IRAQI ACCESS TO ITS PORT OF UMM QASR; OPEC MATTERS; BORDER MATTERS AND
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THE QUESTION OF EXPLOITATION OF PETROLEUM DEPOSITS IN THE LAND BORDER AREAS; THE SECURITY OF THE GULF; IRAQI ACCESS TO KUWAITI PORTS; AND LABOR MATTERS.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY SOURCES HAD EARLIER REPORTED THAT THE IRAQIS APPARENTLY WANT GREATER ACCESS TO KUWAITI PORT FACILITIES AND THAT THE GOK EXPECTED THEM TO RAISE THIS QUESTION. DURING

CONVERSATION APRIL 21, MFA UNDERSEC RASHID AL-RASHID INFORMED
AMB THAT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT EXPECT ANY SUBSTANTIVE RESULT TO
COME OUT OF THIS IRAQI MISSION VISIT. HOWEVER, GOK HAS MADE
CAREFUL PREPARATIONS AND PLANS TO RAISE THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS,
INCLUDING BORDER QUESTIONS, WHICH CURRENTLY EXIST BETWEEN IRAQ
AND KUWAIT. AL-RASHID COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE OF
ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THE IRAQ-KUWAIT SITUATION IN LIGHT OF SADDAM
HUSSEIN'S RECENT STATEMENTS TO TEHRAN PRESS (SEE TEHRAN 3467).
MAESTRONE

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